

FCC 02-277

03/31/2003 M 18:12 FAX

002/003

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

MAR 31 3 59 PM '03
Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 28, 2003

RECEIVED

APR 16 2003

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We are writing you with respect to the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) on-going rulemaking on media ownership pursuant to the provisions of Section 202 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and Section 11 of the Communications Act of 1934. Our concerns are both procedural and substantive.

With respect to our procedural concerns, you have outlined a schedule for completing the biennial review that calls for the Commission to release its decision by June of this year. We respectfully request that the Commission adhere to this schedule. Permitting this important proceeding to slip into summer or fall will not make the issues involved any easier to resolve. It would, however, call into question the ability and willingness of the FCC to adhere to statutory deadlines clearly laid out in the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

In our view, the Commission's ownership restrictions are outdated. It is time for the Commission to amend all of its broadcast ownership rules and bring them into alignment with the realities of today's media marketplace. The public interest is in ensuring consumers a diverse source of local news, public affairs, and community interest programming. The extensive public record developed by the Commission underscores the perpetuation of outdated ownership rules in light of today's marketplace does not satisfy the requirements of the Telecommunications Act or the public interest.

The Commission has before it an extensive record that provides the factual underpinning for a decision that amends all of the rules to reflect the current marketplace. Therefore, we urge the Commission to conclude its media ownership proceeding and to reach a final decision on the fate of all its ownership rules by June of this year.

Sincerely yours,



No. of Copies rec'd 0
List A B C D E

RECEIVED TIME MAR. 31. 4:30PM

PRINT TIME MAR 31 4:31PM

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
March 28, 2003
Page 2

Rep. Blumenthal Martin Ch. Sitter
John S. ... John ... John ...
Pete Sessions Be ... George Allen

cc: Commissioners Abernathy, Adelstein, Copps, and Martin